

## Message Text

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

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LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY

OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 459 - DECEMBER 8, 1977

1. SADAZ CONTINUES TO PRESS A POLICY THAT APPEARS DESIGNED

TO RALLY SUPPORT AT HOME, KEEP HIS DETRACTORS OFF-BALANCE, AND FORCE OTHER ACTORS EITHER TO SUPPORT HIM OR PUBLICLY DECLARE THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE PEACE PROCESS. AS A TESTAMENT TO HIS POPULARITY AT HOME, ADAT ADDRESSED A HUGH POPULAR DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT IN CAIRO YESTERDAY.

2. IN A ,RELUDE TO PRIME MINISTER SALEM'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EGYPT WAS CLOSING SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN CONSULATES AND CULTURAL CENTERS, THE EGYPTIAN PRESS CONTINUED ITS VIRULENT ATTACMOSCOW'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

AL-AHRAM DECLARED THAT THE SOVIET UNION NOT ONLY IS HOSTILE TO MIDDLE EAST PACE MOVES BUT ALSO IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN DESTROYING ARAB UNITY. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION ADVANCES THIS CLEAVAGE BY PROMOTING ITS ATHEIST ANTI-NATIONALIST IDEOLOGIES. THESE THEMES ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE SAUDI SUPPORT. EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE JIDDA DAILY UKAZ WARNED OF SVIET DESIGNS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF NEITHER

ENABLING Y ARABS TO DEFEAHISRAEL NOR SUPPORTING PEACE INITIATIVES THAT COULD LAD TO THE RECOVERY OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

3. MEANWHILE, THE KREMLIN SEEMED TO BE JOINING SADAT'S ARAB CRITICS IN AN AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER HIS STRATEGY.

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THESE CRITICS, HOWEVER SHARP THEIR ATTACKS, APPEARED TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE.

--MOSCOW RADIO REFERRED TO AN "EGYPTIAN-ISRALI ALLIANCE" AS A MEANS OF RATIONALIZING SOVIET CRITICISM OF SADAT.

--TRIPOLI AND DAMASCUS BROADCASY DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO DEFENDING THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE AS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT.

--BAGHDAD COMMENTARY XPHASIZED THE CONFERENCE'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BUT ALSO CRITICIZED THE SYRIAN AND PLO ROLE.

4. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ATTACK ON MOSCOW BY EGYPTIAN MEDIA, THE TREATMENT OF THE US QS BEEN HIGHLY

POSITIVE. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GHALI WAS WIDELY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S VI::; AI S AT ENSURING SUCCESS FOR SADA

5. AS PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAIRO CONFERENCE CONTINUE, MODERATE ARAB STATES, LED BY JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA,

SEEM TO HAVE UNDERTAKEN A DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE  
DESIGNED TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF SADAT'S INITIATIVES  
ON THE ARAB WORLD AND TO STORE A SEMBLANCE OF ARAB  
COORDINATION, IF NOT SOLIDARITY:

--KING HUSSEIN FLEW TO DAMASCUS ON WEDNESDAY FOR TALKS  
WITH ASSAD AND WILL TRAVEL TO CAIRO AND APPARENTLY  
LATER TO RIYADH.

--ASSAD IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT RIYADH.

--ARAFAT MET EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH TUNISIAN LEADER  
BOURGUIBA, PRESUMABLY IN AN EFFORT TO USE TUNIS AS A  
CHANNEL TO MAINTAIN LINKS WITH CAIRO.

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--JORDAN DISPATCHED COURT MINISTER KHAMMASH TO THE GULF  
STATES TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR HUSSEIN'S EFFORTS.

6. HUSSEIN UNDOUBTEDLY HOPES TO SALVAGE SOME OF THE  
PROGRESS TOWARD COORDINATING SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN VIEWS  
THAT HE BELIEVES HE MADE IN HIS VISITS TO THESE CAPITALS

IN EARLY NOVEMBER. JORDAN'S POLICY APPEARS TO BE BASED  
ON:

--SUPPORT FOR SADAT;

--KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN TO SYRIA;

--WORKING T

--CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE US.

7. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT HUSSEIN WILL HAVE MUCH  
IMPACT ON EITHER LEADER BECAUSE SADAT SEEMS DETERMINED  
TO PURSUE HIS OWN COURSE, AND ASSAD PROBABLY # 9:3  
9:8,3\$, AFTER THE BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH SYRIA,  
THAT SADAT IS GOING OFF ON HIS OWN. AMBASSADOR EILTS  
REPORTED THAT SADAT DID NOT SEEM INTERESTED IN EFFORTS  
BY HUSSEIN TO RECONCILE HIM AND ASSAD. (SECRET)

8. ISRAEL: THE ISRAELI MEDIA GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE  
TO THE SECRETARY'S TUESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE, ASSERTING  
ITS ALMOST UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT US POLICY HAS UNDERGONE  
A "STRATEGIC SHIFT" BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE GENEVA  
CONFERENCE AND TO SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE MIDEAST. HAARETZ  
EDITORIALIZED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD DEPARTED FROM "THE  
TRADITIONAL US STAND" THAT GENEVA IS THE PROPER FORUM

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FOR REACHING A SETTLEMENT AND HAD EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT MOSCOW'S GOALS."

9. ISRAELI MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ON SECRET ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN MEETINGS:

--ISRAEL AND EGYPT STARTED SECRET TALKS A FEW DAYS AGO IN PREPARATION FOR THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. VARIOUS EXPERTS PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS, WHICH TOOK PLACE SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ACCORDING TO AN ISRAELI TELEVISION REPORT.

--THE JERUSALEM POST STATED YESTERDAY THAT SADAT AND DAYAN

REAGAN WOULD MEET IN MOROCCO PRIOR TO OR DURING THE CAIRO CONFERENCE.

10. ACCORDING TO REUTER, ISRAEL HAS FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE UN ALLEGING THAT SYRIA INFILTRATED LONG-RANGE GUNS INTO THE LIMITED FORCES ZONE ON THE GOLAN.(UNCLASSIFIED)

11. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT BEGIN MAY BE SOFTENING, HOWEVER, SLIGHTLY, HIS STANCE ON THE WEST BANK AND PALESTINIAN ISSUES. EMBASSY TEL AVIV NOTED THAT BEGIN'S REMARKS IN LONDON THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB QUESTION WAS RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONALITY" INDICATED AT LEAST AN EASING OF BEGIN'S TRADITIONAL HARD-LINE POSITION. IN PARTICULAR, HIS USE OF "PALESTINIAN ARABS" REPRESENTS A CHANGE FROM HIS INSISTENT USE OF "ERETZ ISRAEL ARABS". REGARDING THE WEST BANK, REUTER NOTED THAT AT POSSIBLE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS THERE, SAYING "WHEN WE TALK TO KING HUSSEIN WE SHALL HAVE MANY OFFERS TO MAKE." HOWEVER, EMBASSY TEL AVIV OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH BEGIN'S TONE HAS MODERATED, IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT BEGIN'S BASIC POSITIONS ARE CHANGING. (SECRET)

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12. EGYPT: JERUSALEM RADIO SAID YESTERDAY THAT CAIRO WILL ALLOW A DELEGATION OF PALESTINIANS FROM GAZA TO ENTER EGYPT. THE DELEGATION WILL REPORTEDLY SUPPORT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND PROPOSE THAT EGYPT ALLOW FREE ACCESS TO THE GAZA STRIP. (UNCLASSIFIED)

13. AN OFFICIAL OF THE EGYPTIAN CENTRAL BANK EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY CAIRO OVER THE SLOWNESS OF THE GULF ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT (GODE) IN PAYING THE REMAINING DOLLARS 550 MILLION OF A SECOND TRANCHE OF ARAB AID FOR EGYPT. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, LINK THIS DELAY TO ANY DISPLEASUR OVER SADAT'S INITIATIVES. SAUDI ARABIA YESTERDAY DENIED ARAB PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SAUDIS HAD HALTED AID TO EGYPT. (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

14. BOYCOTT: REUTER REPORTED THAT THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE SAID THAT THE BOYCOTT WOULD CONTINUE "UNTIL EVERY INCH OF OCCUPIED ARAB LAND HAS BEEN LIBERATED AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS ARE RESTORED." (UNCLASSIFIED)

15. OPEC: EMBASSY ABU DHABI HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE UAE IS THINKING OF ASKING THAT THE OPEC CONFERENCE SCHEJTHE EXTRA TIME WOULD HOPEFULLY GIVE OPEC MEMBERS A CHANCE TO REACH A UNIFIED AGREEMENT ON OIL PRICE POLICY AND THEREBY AVOID A POSSIBLE SPLIT AT CARACAS. (SECRET)

16. LEBANON: A RELIABLE PALESTINIAN CONTACT OF EMBASSY DAMACUS REPORTED RECENTLY THAT THE PALESTINIAN IN LEBANON VIEW THE SHTAWRAH AGREEMENT AS A CARD TO BE PLAYED IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF LEBANON. IN FACT, EVEN MODERATE PLO MEMBERS SUCH AS THE SECRET

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AL-HASAN BROTHERS DO NOT FAVOR A WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON AT THIS TIME. (SECRET/NOFORN)  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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